

Legislative Update
April 29, 2018

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Telemedicine Bill Revived

[House Bill 2028](#) was given new consideration this past week, when the Senate agreed to a procedural move – an “agree to disagree” – that allows the conference committee report to advance in the legislative process.

This was a significant hurdle that was overcome only after diligent work by the primary stakeholders, who first brought the legislation forward – including the Kansas Medical Society and the Kansas Hospital Association.

The issue between the House and Senate conferees relates to the inclusion of an abortifacient *non-severability* clause. The clause essentially states that if the abortion language in the bill is struck down by court action, then the underlying telemedicine bill would also be stricken.

The House has been willing to include the clause, even though many object to both the need for exclusion language that already exists in Kansas Statutes and the idea of inserting a non-severability provision. The Senate, however, removed that provision when it debated HB 2028 and, thus far, there were not enough conferees to make the procedural move to advance it.

This past week the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee chairwoman, Senator Vicki Schmidt (R-Topeka) agreed to procedurally move the bill forward. The committee’s vice-chair, Senator Barbara Bollier (R-Mission Hills), said she could not do so, though, so she was replaced by Senator Bud Estes (R-Dodge City) on the conference committee, who agreed to sign an *agree to disagree*.

This procedural move will allow HB 2028 to advance and be voted on by the Senate and by the House. As the bill is now in a conference committee report, it cannot be amended on the floor and will need 21 votes to pass the Senate. If it passes there, it will move on to the House, where it requires 63 votes for final passage. Governor Colyer has indicated he will sign the legislation.

Family Doctor of the Day

KAFP sponsors the Family Doctor of the Day (FDOD) program during the Kansas legislative session. Licensed physicians, including residents, volunteer to provide mostly-minor health needs to legislators and their staff. The Legislature highly values and appreciates access to these services, especially when so many are away from their hometown primary care physicians.

Two members provided this service last week: **Philip Dooley, MD, FAAFP**, Wichita and **Belinda Vail, MD, FAAFP**, Kansas City. Thank you both for providing this service to Capitol legislators and staff this session.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Fri, May 4 Official end to the legislative session, Sine Die